FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JULY 1983

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces regained the highest mountain peak overlooking the Hajj 'Umran-Rayat area in the "best and largest landing operation" by Iraqi special forces since the beginning of the war, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio early on 29 July. In a cable to President Saddam Husayn, broadcast by the radio, the commander of Iraq's I Army Corps said his troops killed hundreds of enemy forces in 24 hours of fierce fighting. The peak was seized in a "vertical storming operation" by special forces airlifted by helicopter, INA subsequently disclosed.

Tehran radio reported earlier that Iranian forces were advancing in the Darband region of the northern battlefront. A military communique broadcast by the radio said Iranian forces repulsed Iraqi "counteroffensives and desperate moves" and captured over 15 Iraqi positions. The Iranian Air force and air defenses also shot down three Iraqi planes, including two Mirages, and seven Iraqi helicopters, the communique claimed.

On the other hand, all Iraqi fighter planes returned safely to base after downing an Iranian helicopter. Iraqi aircraft also raided Iranian targets in the central sector, the communique noted. IRNA confirmed that Iraqi planes bombed the Ilam border area, inflicting damage and killing an Iranian staff officer.

Lebanon

Withdrawal Timetable — Israel is ready "in principle" to present a timetable for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, but it will not act according to this timetable if the Syrians and "terrorists" stay in Lebanon, Israeli political sources announced in remarks reported by IDF Radio.

Earlier, Washington diplomatic sources will be delivering new U.S. ideas for a four-stage Israeli withdrawal timetable linked to similar withdrawals by the Syrians.

Syrian Redeployment in Tripoli — After withdrawing unexpectedly from Tripoli, the Syrian Army reentered some areas of the city following contacts at the "highest levels," Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In a statement broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami admitted that the "sudden" nature of the Syrian withdrawal had caused confusion and he called on rival factions in the city to allow Lebanese Internal Security Forces to take over the areas evacuated by the Syrians. However, Beirut radio reported that armed clashes erupted in the city when rival organizations rushed to fill the evacuated positions. The 24 October Movement — a group opposed to the Syrian presence — took control of the citadel, the radio noted.

Israeli-Phalangist Relations — An IDF spokesman denied Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radio reports that the IDF gave the Phalangist Lebanese Forces an ultimatum to evacuate their bases south of the Al-'Awwali River, Jerusalem radio reported. Israel has demanded only that the Phalangists evacuate a small base east of Sidon because its establishment was not coordinated with the IDF, he added. The demand was part of a series of Israeli measures designed to prevent a deterioration of relations between the Phalangists and local Shi'ites and Palestinians, IDF Radio noted. Christians residing in southern Lebanon staged demonstrations and strikes in support of the Phalangist presence in the area, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios.

PLO Affairs

Clashes continued between Fatah dissidents and loyalists in the Al-Biqa' valley despite a short-lived cease-fire agreement sponsored by Lebanese leftist parties, according to Radio Monte Carlo and Voice of Lebanon radio. After a lull in the evening the fighting resumed throughout the night of 28-29 July, Voice of Lebanon reported. The radio said the Syrians provided artillery support for the dissidents. The radio also cited "secret reports" that the Syrians have placed dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha under house arrest in Damascus because of political differences. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources in Damascus announced that the Fatah leadership has decided to hold a Fatah general congress as soon as possible, QNA reported. An official spokesman for the dissidents, who have repeatedly called for a congress, stressed that they will abide by all resolutions it adopts, the sources added.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis after concluding a 2-day official visit to the SFRY, WAKH reported. In an interview with Belgrade radio, 'Arafat expressed optimism that mediation efforts will overcome the PLO's problems with the Syrians and Libyans.

West Bank

Strikes and disturbances continued and Israeli authorities arrested a number of Palestinians, according to reports by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio and KUNA. KUNA said four Israeli settlers were injured in a fight with Palestinians near Nabulus, but monitored Israeli media did not confirm this.

Western Sahara

Fighting between Polisario and the Moroccan Army continued around Messeied in recent days with both sides claiming successes. An SADR statement reported by Algiers radio said 225 Moroccans were killed in fighting between 22 and 27 July while Rabat radio announced earlier that the Moroccans crushed a 26 July attack by the "mercenaries," destroying three tanks and many other vehicles.

Iran

French Embassy — Iran has intensified security measures around the French Embassy in response to French requests that Iran guarantee the security of French citizens and establishments in the country, IRNA reported citing a Foreign Ministry official's announcement. The French request followed a threat by Armenian terrorists to attack the embassy with rockets, according to AFP.

Arms From Israel — The French weekly *Le Canard Enchaine* has published documents indicating that Israeli arms dealers concluded a $21 million contract in January 1983 to supply Iran with military equipment including 200 Sidewinder missiles, the Tel Aviv paper *Davar* reported.

Afghanistan

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told Afghan refugees in Pakistan that the PRC firmly supports the Afghan people's struggle to regain independence and freedom, according to XINHUA. The Chinese agency also reported recent Soviet executions of Afghan civilians. Meanwhile, DRA Government security forces crushed a 90-strong band of "counterrevolutionaries" in Qonduz Province, Kabul radio announced.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Rao Leaves for Sri Lanka; Rajya Sabha Debate

Gandhi Statement

BK281248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, is leaving for Colombo this evening to have talks with President Jayewardene on the situation in Sri Lanka. This was announced by the prime minister in the Rajya Sabha this afternoon soon after the house concluded a 3-hour discussion on the developments in Sri Lanka.

Mrs Gandhi said while the discussion was on in the house she contacted Mr Jayewardene on the telephone and told him that Mr Narasimha Rao would like to visit Sri Lanka to personally convey the feelings of the members of parliament and in particular the anguish of the people of Tamil Nadu. Mr Jayewardene welcomed the proposed visit. Mrs Gandhi also told the Sri Lanka president that in view of the reports of short supply of essential goods in the refugee camps, India will be willing to send these supplies through the International Red Cross or any other voluntary organization. Members applauded Mrs Gandhi's statement. She also made a similar statement in the Lok Sabha.

Earlier, replying to discussions in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Rao said the government is fully aware of the disturbing situation in Sri Lanka. The anti-Indian overtones of these incidents are glaring. He said reports of several incidents had since been confirmed. Mr Rao told the house that while India appealed to Sri Lanka to restore communal harmony, this was misconstrued and anti-India reports were flashed in the press.

Appeal to UN

BK281631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has left for Colombo to make a first-hand study of the situation in Sri Lanka. He is accompanied by Mr C.S. Bajpai, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.

The external affairs minister confirmed [in Rajya Sabha] that all our personnel in the hig.. commission are safe.

Initiating the debate Mr V. Gopalaswamy, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, said that the incidents in Sri Lanka should be raised at the United Nations as a case of violation of human rights. A Lok Dal member said that India should offer assistance in any way the Sri Lanka Government desires. A Congress-I member described the incidents as a crime against humanity. Both the Congress-S and the Communist Party of India-Marxist members felt that Mr Rao's statement is too mild to express the agony of India over the issue. The Congress-S member was also of the opinion that the prime minister in her capacity as the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement should speak to other heads of state of the nonaligned countries regarding this.

An All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam member pointed out that such incidents have been occurring too frequently and the government should take up the issue seriously.

Members from different other parties also expressed their concern over the incidents.

In a statement the Janata Party leader, Mr Raj Narain has expressed concern over the situation in Sri Lanka.

AFP: Tamil Activist Seeking Support From MP's

BK281119 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil activist, claiming to be from riot-torm Jaffna and actively associated with the Tamil "Eelam" (Liberation) Movement, has called on India not to remain "a silent spectator" to events in his country.

Arular (ed: one name), secretary to the Committee for Eelam, is currently here seeking support from Indian parliamentarians.

He told PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency that the Tamils in Sri Lanka could not expect fair treatment as the Sinhalese majority constituted 98 per cent of the Sri Lankan police and Army.

Mr. Arular's committee claims to represent half a dozen Tamil organisations in the island nation, PTI said.

He was quoted as saying that he suspected the complicity of the Sri Lankan Government and police in the recent killings of 52 inmates of a Colombo prison.

Mr. Arular called for a referendum to be held under international supervision in northern and eastern Sri Lankan provinces on proposals for an autonomous Tamil state.

He also demanded the unconditional release of all political detainees and withdrawal of armed forces from Tamil dominated provinces.

Reportage on PRC Foreign Minister's Visit

Afghan Refugee Camp Visited

BK281028 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, has repeated his country's call for total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and restoration of its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonaligned and Islamic status. He was talking to Afghan refugees at a refugee tented village at Nasirbagh near Peshawar this morning. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, was also present.

The Chinese foreign minister said his country firmly supported the Afghan people's just struggle to regain the independence of their motherland and their right to determine their own destiny. He said the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan had not only gravely infringed upon Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty, but also rendered millions of Afghan people homeless and displaced, seeking refuge in neighboring countries. This tragedy, he said, had been rarely seen in the modern history of international relations. He deeply sympathized with the Afghan refugees and highly appreciated the humanitarian relief and aid provided to them by the Government and people of Pakistan and the international community. China, on its part, he assured, would do what it could to help alleviate their difficulties.

Yaqub Khan Cites Talks

BK290404 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has described his formal and informal talks with the Chinese foreign minister as very satisfactory. He was addressing a banquet given in his honor by the Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian in Islamabad yesterday. He said that the current visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Pakistan has further strengthened and deepened the relations of the two countries.

Earlier, Wu referred to the growing friendship between Pakistan and China, and said that his current visit has further stabilized these friendly relations.

Wu Makes Statement, Departs

BK290631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has said that China is ready to join the countries giving an international guarantee regarding Afghanistan provided the Soviet Union withdraws its troops first from Afghanistan and guarantees its independence and territorial integrity. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning prior to his departure following a 5-day visit to Pakistan.

The Chinese foreign minister stressed that the question of a political solution to the Afghanistan problem depends on Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan under a timetable. Otherwise, it will be difficult to achieve any success in the indirect talks in Geneva in this regard.

In reply to a question, the Chinese foreign minister said his country is in favor of a political settlement on the Afghanistan issue and supports the stand Pakistan adopted at the Geneva talks.

Referring to his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, he said the detailed talks will not only further strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between Pakistan and China, but will also promote closer cooperaton in international affairs.

DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Kim Arrives 28 July

BK281109 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] A three-member delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arrived in Islamabad this morning. It is headed by the vice foreign minister, Mr Kim Yong-sop. The delegation will hold talks with the senior officials of the Foreign Office this afternoon. Later, the delegation will call on the president.

Briefs

Export Performance — The country's exports registered a 32-percent increase during the fiscal year ending on 30 June. Goods worth 34.7 billion rupees were exported during the last fiscal year as compared to 26.7 billion rupees during the previous year. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 83 BK]

Loans to Farmers — Lahore, July 8 — A total of over Rs. 1,309 million were distributed among farmers by the agriculture credit co-operative societies throughout the country during the first months of the last fiscal year. Of this, Rs. 1,190.42 million were distributed by the co-operative societies in the Punjab, Rs. 34.84 million in NWFP and Rs. 84.16 million in Sind. No co-operative loan as such was distributed in Baluchistan Province during the period under report. [Text] [Islamabad The Muslim in English 9 Jul 83 p 6 GF]

SRI LANKA

President Jayewardene Addresses Nation 28 July

BK281713 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 83

[28 July speech to nation by President Jayewardene—recorded]

[Text] My dear friends: It is with deep regrets and sorrow that I address you today. When I see the destruction around us, the spate of violence that has arisen, it is very, very distressing. This violence has been raised particularly against the Tamil people and it has been caused by deep ill-feelings and the suspicion that has grown between the Sinhalese and the Tamil people for several years. When there is distrust and there are grievances it is easy to lead people to violence, and we feel that there is an attempt to lead this violence for the purpose of destroying the political and economic progress that this government has been able to ensure for our people.

It was from 1966 that this suspicion between the Sinhalese and the Tamil people first began. In 1976, for the first time a movement for the separation of our beloved motherland, a separation of a united Lanka into two nations, was also accepted. The Sinhalese will never agree to the division of a country which has been a united nation for 2,500 years. At first this movement for separation was nonviolent, but since 1976 this became violent. Violence increased and innocent people were murdered. Members of the armed services and the police, politicians who did not agree with the movement of violence — whether they were Sinhalese or Tamilians — were assassinated. It has grown to such large proportions that not a few but hundreds had been killed during this movement. Because of this violence of the terrorists, the Sinhalese people themselves have reacted.

I feel that the movement for separation should have been banned long, long ago. I have also been a member of the governments which are responsible for not banning it. I thought that in the all party conferences which I had summoned (? a few) days ago, which we were unable to hold — firstly, because all parties did not accept my invitation and secondly, because of the violence and the curfew around us — I thought that at that conference I would say that we intend to implement the 1977 manifesto of the United National Party, which sought to solve some of the political problems that arose, and once we did that we would also ask the consensus of opinion to make the division of the country illegal. Unfortunately, we could not hold this conference. But the government has now decided that the time has come to exceed to the [word indistinct] and the request — the natural request — of the Sinhalese people that we do not allow the movement of division to grow any more.

The Cabinet, therefore, this morning decided that we should bring legislation firstly, to prevent people from entering the legislature which may belong to a party which seeks to divide the nation. Secondly, the legislation will make parties that seek to divide the nation illegal. It is obvious [words indistinct] and also that those belong to these parties or those who advocate the separation will loose their civic rights and cannot hold office, cannot practice secession, cannot join movements or organizations in this country.

We are very sorry that this step should be taken. But I cannot see, my government cannot see, any other way as it [words indistinct] peace, natural desire, and request of the Sinhalese people to prevent the country being divided and to see that those who speak for division are not able to do so. Thank you.

Foreign Minister Meets India's Rao Upon Arrival

BK290239 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived in Sri Lanka by an Indian Airlines special plane early this morning.

The Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, talked over the telephone with President Jayewardene in this connection yesterday as to whether the latter had any objection to meeting with the Indian external affairs minister in Sri Lanka. Mrs Gandhi also wanted to know if the president would agree to have talks with Narasimha Rao. In reply, Jayewardene said the Indian external affairs minister would be welcome.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed received the Indian external affairs minister upon his arrival in Colombo. Narasimha Rao is accompanied by senior officials of the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

Rao, in a recent statement, reiterated the statement by Mrs Indira Gandhi that the current events in Sri Lanka are internal affairs of that country and that India does not want to intervene at all in the internal affairs of any country. Rao stressed in parliament that close relations of cooperation and friendship between India and Sri Lanka should be maintained. He added that India fully understands the problems faced by Sri Lanka and that it wants to assist Sri Lanka in maintaining communal harmony and (?integrity) in that country.

Earlier, the Indian external affairs minister contacted his Sri Lankan counterpart. Hameed assured him that the situation was being brought under control and all possible efforts were being made to maintain the security of Indian citizens.

Prison Rioting Results in 7 Deaths; Inquiry Held

BK281319 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] A new outbreak of rioting at the Welikade prison yesterday has resulted in the deaths [of] 7 detainees under the Anti terrorism Act. Two others were severely injured. Several other prisoners were also injured during the rioting. The Armed Forces, who were called in by prison authorities, used teargas to bring the situation under control. A magisterial inquiry into these deaths took [place] at 0930 this morning.

After the riot in the Welikade prison on 26 July in which 35 prisoners died, arrangements have been made to remove the other detainees to another prison. However, yesterday's rioting took place before this decision was carried out. Prison authorities have now moved the remaining 36 detainces from the Welikade prison to another prison.

Curfew To Be Reimposed Throughout Country

BK290557 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed at 1700 this afternoon throughout the country today and it will continue until 0400 tomorrow morning. The next announcement on continuation of the curfew tomorrow will be made soon. The government decided to extend the curfew hours [as heard] for some time so that people can purchase their essential commodities. The people have been advised to remain indoors during curfew hours.

AFP: Train Attacked; TULF MP's Under House Arrest

BK281229 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 28 Jul 83

[By Neville de Silva—AFP prefaces item with note:—"This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 28 (AFP) — Gunmen reportedly killed several people in an attack on a train near here today as the government disclosed a further massacre in a Colombo jail and a virtual mutiny by sailors in Trincomalee.

The latest victims were killed in an attack on a train coming in from Kandy, 115 km (72 miles) from here, reports said. Men carrying revolvers and grenades staged the attack, the reports added. Several people were reported killed, but no official figures were available.

The government meanwhile announced that about 130 sailors were under arrest in Trincomalee after breaking barracks and rampaging through the port city on Monday. One person was killed and 10 injured as the sailors attacked 175 houses and shops, the government said.

State Ministry Secretary Douglas Liyanage said that disciplinary action would be taken against the sailors.

Official sources said that Tamil-owned shops had been burned in Kandy and in Badulla in Sri Lanka's hill country. "The situation in Kandy is now under control," they added.

(PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported today that A. Amritalingham, chairman of the main opposition party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and several other TULF MP's were under house arrest at Mannar, in Sri Lanka.

(Quoting Thanjai Pamamurty, a leading politician in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, who returned from Sri Lanka last night, PTI said that the MP's had been attending a TULF convention at Mannar.

(PTI quoted Mr. Ramamurty as saying that the Sri Lankan Army had virtually taken over the administration and that President Junius Jayewardene had informed Tamil leaders that the situation was beyond his control.

(Mr Ramamurty said that Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was not allowed to attend the funeral of the army men killed in an ambush on July 24, the agency said. Soldiers had stoned his car and he was forced to leave, PTI added.

AFP Reports on Domestic Situation 29 July

BK290745 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 29 (AFP) — Sri Lanka today smouldered under a tense calm after a wave of ethnic violence that reportedly left more than 90 people dead and 25,000 homeless, prompting the government to ban all separatist groups. No new assaults on minority Tamils were reported here today and the only incident was an arson attack that damaged a Tamil-owned store in a downtown shopping center but left no casualties, official sources said.

Police and members of Sri Lanka's Air Force were seen patrolling the streets of the capital, but Army units were conspicuously scarce, prompting speculation that they had been redeployed in other Sri Lankan trouble spots.

While the government had announced its intention to keep people off the streets for the entire weekend, officials of the violence-wracked country later said that the dusk-to-dawn curfew would continue until further notice. The curfew had already sent Sri Lankans flocking to grocery stores to stock up on food with prices for staples such as rice and beans skyrocketing 400-500 percent.

Officials have confirmed that at least 66 Tamils, including 52 at a prison here, had been killed in the murderous backlash by majority Sinhalese triggered by the ambush slaying of 13 soldiers by Tamil separatists on Saturday. But eyewitness and unconfirmed reports said that two dozen more were killed in random attacks on Tamils, with some victims said to have been pulled out of cars and beaten.

While Colombo appeared stable, there was no news from the northeastern port of Trincomalee, a hotbed of unrest where the situation was described as "very serious" by a government spokesman in the nearby Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Some 130 sailors were under arrest after breaking out of their barracks Monday to attack shops and homes in a rampage that left one dead.

7 Iraqi Helicopters Downed, 15 Bases Captured

LD281738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Communique No 7 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters — joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The victorious battle and the ceaseless combat of the army of Islam, which defends the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution in the face of the conspiracies and the satanic actions of world blasphemy, are continuing. Our powerful forces, relying on God Almighty, are dealing crushing blows to the defeated enemy.

Continuing the victorious Val-Fajr II operations in an intense dogfight between 1015-1030 today, the quick-flying and epic-making pilots of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the vigilant air defense units shot down three enemy aircraft, including two French Mirages belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime, over the Val-Fajr II operational zone. The pilot of one of the enemy aircraft has been taken prisoner by the forces of Islam.

Furthermore, the defense fire of the heroic combatants of Islam today brought down seven enemy helicopters over the Val-Fajr II operational zone. The pilot of one of the helicopters has also been taken prisoner by our victorious combatants.

With the downing of three enemy aircraft and seven helicopters today, the total number of downed enemy aircraft in the Val-Fajr II operations has reached five, and that of downed Iraqi helicopters, nine.

Continuing the battle in the operational zone in the past 24 hours, the forces of Islam have repulsed the enemy's counteroffensives and desperate moves, which are taking place following the grave defeat suffered by the moribund forces of the Baghdad Zionist regime at the hands of the combatants of Islam. They also killed or wounded a large number of Saddamist mercenaries and captured more than 15 other enemy bases. The battle is still continuing, with our forces enjoying superiority. Our pride-making heroes, consolidating and strengthening the captured positions, are busy mopping up the region and collecting the spoils of war.

Despite the unstinting help rendered by the world arrogance and the criminal superpowers to the bloodthirsty Baghdad regime, the zealous soldiers of the army of Islam intend to continue their battle firmly and steadfastly until the full materialization of the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran, obtaining the legitimate rights of the Muslim Iranian nation and the materialization of the lofty ideals of the oppressed and beloved martyrs of the Islamic Revolution.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada, peace be upon him, Headquarters — joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,396

LD281805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,396 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fire exchanges and clashes continued in the Val-Fajr II operational zone in the past 24 hours with the forces of Islam maintaining complete superiority.

Following our units' artillery fire on enemy positions in Tutman, Tuwaylah, [name indistinct], and (Ghazanfari) Garrison and the halting of enemy fire yesterday, a large number of Saddamist bunkers were destroyed and one parking lot and several enemy drilling-engineering vehicles were set on fire. Three moving enemy vehicle columns were seen on the western fronts, and their movements were halted by our fire.

In combat operations on the southern fronts yesterday, the forces of Ilam defended their positions, executed heavy fire, and obstructed the enemy's engineering activities in the areas of Zayd, Kushk, Faqqah, and south of Zubaydah. In the Abadan-Khorramshahr operational zone, our fire on enemy positions across the Arvand Rud destoyed 16 of the aggressor's foxholes, bunkers, and observation posts and 2 ammunition depots.

The enemy's long-range weapons fire yesterday destroyed two houses in Abadan.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Southern Darband Region in Iraq Occupied

LD281729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Continuing their triumphant Val-Fajr II operation, with a series of coordinated operations in the mountains, at dawn today the army of Islam cleared the southern part of the Darband region in Iraq and established themselves in all bases previously occupied by the Zionist-Bathist enemy in that region.

According to an IRNA report, following this operation,which was launched at dawn today, and after the enemy's fruitless efforts to regain and recapture the liberated areas, under cover of timely artillery fire, the combatants of Islam attacked the enemy's positions and last bases in the Darban region in Iraq — situated 18 km to the west of the border with Iran. The combatants of Islam brought the exhausted enemy to its knees right from the early hours of the operation. As a result of the army of Islam's surprise attack, Saddamist mercenaries had no choice but to hide and flee to shelters and furrows in the heights. They continued their fruitless resistance sporadically.

On the basis of this report, following a series of clashes in the region's heights at 0500 today the combatants of Islam surrounded the operational zone to the south of Darband heights,

killed a considerable number of the Saddamist forces, and inflicted heavy damage on enemy's armor and equipment.

Following this morning's triumphant operation and settlement of combatants of Islam in south of Darband heights in Iraq, another part of the Piranshahr-Darband communications and supply axis came under the complete control of the forces of Islam.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Areas in Ilam, Mehran

GF281730 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Ilam, July 28, IRNA — Aggressive Iraqi planes bombed parts of the border areas in Ilam, west of Iran, after making a number of reconnaissance flights over fronts there during the past 48 hours commencing Tuesday.

An army staff was martyred and damages were inflicted on a region in east of Mehran during the bombing of the Iraqi violation.

Mountainous areas in west of Mehran were bombed by a number of Iraqi planes on Tuesday, failing to cause any casualties or damages.

Armed Forces Official on Gulf Security

LD282353 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Port Anzali, July 28, IRA — "We seek free shipping in Persian Gulf, while defending this waterway against aggression of enemy we will maintain its security," top Armed Forces [words indistinct] said.

General Khazafi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, who is on a visit to the Gilan Province, talking to IRNA Thursday further added that the Islamic Republic has more than 1,000 kms of coastal line in the Persian Gulf, and as regards this coastal line, the Persian Gulf pertains to the Islamic Republic and hence our combatants since the commencement of the war fought the aggressor and will continue to do so.

The superpowers under various pretexts wish to create disturbances in the region and it was the Iraqi-Zionist regime which by attacking the Iranian offshore oil wells contaminated the waters and endangered the lives of the aquatics of the Persian Gulf.

Pointing to the recent victories of the Islamic combatants, he said that in spite of the [word indistinct] blows inflicted by the Islamic combatants, Saddam has not yet been punished and would not heed to the conditions of the Islamic Republic for ending the war. The Islamic combatants with their penetration inside Iraqi territory proved that they can further advance and inflict more deadly blows.

The acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic while condemning the futile propaganda moves of Saddam and his masters on the crumbling Iraqi Army stressed that the Islamic combatants fought with full might at the initiation of the war against the criminal aggressors.

Arabic Commentary on Security of Persian Gulf

GF280728 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The security of the Persian Gulf has been the topic of much discussion these past few days. There has not been one Western offficial who has not spoken of this matter in a cautionary tone. There has been not one Western newspaper which has not given much coverage to Western interests in the Gulf region. This expression of concern comes with theapproach of the starting date of the RDF maneuvers in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and Oman. It is merely an affirmation of the aggressive intentions of the U.S. Administration.

For the past 6 months, the U.S. Administration has daily discovered new ways of raising this issue and prompting newspapers to discuss it with great zeal. After pushing the regime in Baghdad to shell the Nowruz oil fields and supplying it — through the French — with the weapons to carry out this shelling, such as air-to-land missiles which have a range of 50 km, and after Iraq carried out this plan, the U.S. Administration endeavored to enter the Persian Gulf waters through various means and [word indistinct]. But the Islamic Republic's firm stance on any foreign interference in the water pollution problem, was effective in foiling the U.S. plan which was carried out by the Ba'thist leaders in Iraq in various phases.

The drama of the mines is a new move in the aggressive methods created by the U.S. Administration to create pretexts for holding maneuvers and even for direct interference under the banner of "protecting its interests". This was actually stated by this administration through the official spokesman of U.S. State Department, who announced his government's readiness to interfere militarily in the event his country's interests in the region become endangered.

The motive behind the making of this statement emanated from the game which the Baghdad regime decided to play when one of its agents announced that Baghdad would launch an attack against the Khark Island's oil pipelines in retaliation for the successful attack launched by the Islamic forces in the area of Hajj 'Umran. In short, this implies transferring the flame of the battle anew to the Gulf waters and also implies threatening the security and the stability of the littoral countries.

Responding to this statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it is capable of blocking the Strait of Hormuz to all navigation if its coasts were subjected to perfidious aggression. This announcement is based on two principles: 1) Foiling any attempt designed to impose capitulation on the Muslim people of Iran by the acceptance of an unjust and unbalanced peace; and 2) Participation of the imperialist superpowers in such an aggressive act.

Those who want to hit at the strategic positions in the Gulf waters are not restricted to the Baghdad regime alone, since there are groups and governments behind this grave decision. All the evidence supports this fact. This regime is only the weakest side and it would benefit from such an aggressive act. There are other

imperialist sides which hope that this region will be converted into a volatile volcano since this would provide the pretext for interference according to their views. Moreover, this can also be based on the fact that this would also impose an economic siege on the Islamic Republic and thus weaken its military front in confronting all-out imperialist aggression. Therefore, the response of the Islamic Republic to these threats is threatening to cut the waterway which provides the western countries with more than 80 percent of their energy. This is a legitimate response to such aggression.

The Islamic Republic which possesses the longest coasts on the Gulf waters is capable of executing this threat if it deems it is necessary to do so since it is its legitimate right to protect itself, to protect itself in this all-out war with all the imperialist countries. Those who cherish the sight of the Gulf region engulfed in flames may get their wish fulfilled. No aggressive power will have the capability of passage to the Strait of Hormuz without paying the price. The region will not be easy to cross for anyone willing to do so or wanting something else to do so. Therefore, anyone that plots aggression will find himself swimming in a pool of oil ready to be ignited.

Taheri Scores Gulf Countries on Oil Spill Effort

GF271703 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] Mirza Taheri, deputy prime minister and head of the Environmental Protection Agency, arrived at Khark Island yesterday along with a delegation consisting of personnel from the headquarters for the coordination of operations to fight pollution in the Persian Gulf and experts from the Continental Shelf Oil Company and the environmental agency.

In an interview with our correspondent, he said the purpose of his visit was to inspect the equipment and other necessary materials and evaluate the preparedness to fight any possible pollution caused by the leaking oil wells.

He said: In this visit we have tested the equipment used for collecting the oil patches and the results were satisfactory. There is absolutely no cause for concern for the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, particularly for our compatriots living in the Persian Gulf. We have arranged for the most modern equipment and after it is readied for this job, it too will be tested.

Referring to the propaganda plots of the media of the West and the reactionary countries of the region in connection with the oil pollution and stressing that absolutely no pollution exists in Iranian waters, he said that this pollution mostly affects those countries which have aided the Saddam regime and these very countries are being harmed by this pollution now.

Mirza Taheri, referring to the stand taken by these countries on this matter and to their cooperation, said: The Persian Gulf countries have shown good will to some extent, but they have not shown any effort to cap the wells. In some of the meetings that we have had with them their view was that oil patches should be collected away from the leaking wells without capping the wells and this job would require the cooperation of the superpowers.

He added: We hope that these countries will wake up and cooperate with Iran by bringing pressure on the Zionist Saddam regime and arranging for measures to cap the wells. Thus, they will not expose themselves to unnecessary inconvenience.

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency stressed: If the security of the Persian Gulf region is guaranteed by the mercenary regime of Saddam, we can ourselves cap the wells with the help of the Iranian experts. He added: God willing, the Zionist regime of Saddam will fall soon and peace for the people in the region will follow.

Continuing his talk, Mirza Taheri referred to the false reports being spread by the Western news agency, REUTER, that marine life along the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf has suffered on account of the oil pollution, and said: No such thing has been witnessed on the Iranian coast and if this report is true, then it refers to the coastal waters of the Arab countries.

In conclusion, he thanked and praised the hard work and sacrifices of the workers of the oil company of the region and of the Continental Shelf Oil Company. During his stay in the region, the deputy prime minister and head of the Environmental Protection Agency met with Mr Salehi, Friday imam of Khark. This morning, he inspected the oil export jetty of Khark Island and watched oil being loaded onto tankers. He and his delegation left Khark Island this morning for Tehran.

Foreign Journalists Tour 'Liberated' Regions

GF281810 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, JULY 28, IRNA -- The visit of foreign correspondents to the strategic regions liberated by the Islamic combatants inside Iraqi territory is another blow to the credibility of the imperialists and Zionists mass media in the eyes of the Muslims and the freedom-loving people of the world.

Following the announcement of the victorious Val-Fajr II operation launched Saturday July 23, news agencies, mass media and broadcasting corporations, under the control of the world monopolists, fortunately could not resist but gave a coverage of brief account of the victories of the Islamic combatants. The media also quoted contradictory and ridiculous reports from the Iraqi regime which received stunning blows from the Islamic combatants. In this way they tried to create doubts in the mind of audience.

VOA, (Voice of America) BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), the Zionist state-owned radio, and other lackeys of the region like the Saudi radio and the Oman radio, also the Western imperialist Zionist news agencies repeatedly announced that the Iraqi regime recaptued the Hajj 'Umran region.

The most funny example of the baseless propaganda was the one made by the BBC, the REUTERS and also the regional lackeys on Saturday July 23. The [words indistinct] said that the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, (Tehran Radio) in its 14:00 hours (local time) news bulletin had confessed to the failure of the Islamic combatants in achieving their assigned targets.

On the contrary, the Iran radio in its same 25-minute broadcast confirmed all the victories for its audience both inside and outside the country.

Iraqi Council Spokesman Discusses Val-Fajr Operation

LD251112 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, commended the Iraqi mujahideen for their participation in the triumphant Wal-Fajr-2 operation against the Iraq Bathist regime. He said that they are determined to fight side by side their Iranian combatant brethren in liberating the Iraqi [as received] and purging it of Ba'thist elements.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim talking to IRNA today congratulated Imam Khomeyni,leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the peoples of Iran and Iraq on the recent victories of the Islamic combatants. He said that the Iraqi mujahideen fulfilled their duty in assisting the Islamic combatants and in coordination with inflicting fatal blows on the usurper rulers of Iraq.

Pointing to the cooperation of the Iraqi mujahideen in other operations and the assistance of the Muslim Kurds in the operations with the Islamic combatants he stressed that the Iraqi mujahideen would not be at ease till the complete annihilation of foreign domination in Iraq. He said they were determined to deliver fatal blows to release the people of Iraq from under the yoke of the Iraqi regime.

The SAIRI spokesman likened the Iraqi mujahideen to other combatant Muslim youths and while commenting on their undaunted sacrifices in thwarting oppression and suppression by the Baghdad regime said that in the recent Wal Fajr-2 operation, the Iraqi mujahideen played a worthy role in assisting the Islamic combatants in gaining control over enemy positions and purging the operational region. He also said that in this operation the Iraqi Kurds alongside the Iranian Muslim forces participated in the liberation of the region (inside Iraqi territory) and ridding it of armed elements. Continuing, he said this would enable them to adopt better security measures in the Kordestan region of Iraq in future with the cooperation of Kurds.

Tours 'Liberated Regions'

LD281313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Council of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution, yesterday visited the Val-Fajr II operational sector and the liberated regions of that country.In an exclusive interview given to the reporter of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Urumiyed center, he addressed the Muslim people of Iraq:

My message to the struggling Muslims and mujahidin and our combatant Iraqi Kurdish and Turkomen brothers is that in these momentous historic moments they should bear in mind their onerous responsibility vis-a-vis the Almighty God and dear Islam, should mobilize themselves with their utmost power for the destruction of the blasphemous Saddmist regime and on the ruins of this moribund regime should found the divine regime of the Islamic republic.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Council of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution, also said: The Iraqi people should remain confident that Saddam's moribund regime, despite all the assistance it receives from the superpowers and all the money placed at its disposal by the reactionary sheykhs in the region, is moving toward its decline and destruction and will soon fall. Therefore, our combatant Iraqi brothers should be united and should deal the last blows at the body of this rotten regime.

The spokesman of the Supreme Council of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution, referring to the experience gained by Iraqi Muslim mujahidin from the regime of the Islamic Republic and Iran's Islamic Revolution, then said: During our struggle against the Saddam regime and after the destruction of this satanical regime,we will draw on this experience.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, who spoke to the reporter of the Urumiyeh Central News Unit yesterday during his visit to the liberated regions in Iraq and the Val-Fajr II operational sector, praised the courage, bravery, and selflessness of Islam's combatants who had liberated an extensive area of Iraqi soil from the diabolical domination of the infidel Saddamists and said: The liberation of a difficult area which appeared impenetrable was a fresh boost to the Islamic forces and the deprived throughout the world and particular the meek people of Iran. During these operations, the important Hajj 'Umran region and the sensitive heights therein, with strategic importance, was occupied by Islam's forces in a short time and with the least losses and casualties and, furthermore, this speedy and praiseworthy victory has brought about new (?hope) for the Muslim Iraqi people and Islam's (?combatants).

In another part of his interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said: All our observations in the Val-Fajr II operational sector speak of the victory scored by Islam's troops and their lionheartedness, faith, and belief in the unavoidable and final victory, while on the other hand the trenches and equipment left behind by the mercenary Saddamists were indicative of their terror and cowardice. This victory has shaken the foundations of the alien Iraqi regime and brought about the hope for the Iraqi mujahidin that Islam's troops, following the destruction of the Zionist, Ba'thist Saddam regime, the heads of which should be tried by the Iraqi nation, would move toward dear Jerusalem and will destroy the foundations of the regimes of all the devils on earth.

It is noteworthy that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim yesterday met the population of some of the liberated hamlets in Iraq and spoke to them about the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the struggles waged by Iraqi mujahidin.

[Signed] Central News Unit of Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Urumiyeh center stationed in the Val-Fajr II operational sector

Official Announces Security Steps at French Embassy

LD282128 Tehran IRNA in English 2135 gmt 28 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — An official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced here Thursday that security measures, as well as the number of police officers around the French Embassy in Tehran, had been increased and all streets leading to the embassy building were blocked.

The announcement was made after recent statements of a spokesman at France's Foreign Ministry calling on the Islamic Republic to guarantee security of the French citizens, and establishments, in Iran.

The Iranian official noted that the Islamic Republic, observing international regulations, had provided security measures.

Ministry Condemns 'Massacre' of Hebron Students

LD282148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Statement issued by Foreign Affairs Ministry—date not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Since beloved Palestine was occupied through the joint conspiracy of the crusaders and the Zionists, the imposition of crime and conspiracy on the oppressed and suppressed people of this land and its nearby Islamic regions by the Zionists and their imperialist supporters has been adopting new forms every day and has been carried out with the consenting silence of reactionary rulers, colluders and traitors to the Islamic and Arab nation. In the continuation of the crimes committed by these invaders and of the genocide conspiracy and the suppression of the oppressed Palestine and Lebanon, the racist Zionists' method of the massacre of the praying congregation in the Al-Aqsa Mosque last year is today again manifested in the attack on Hebron University and the massacre of the Muslim students at the hands of masked Zionists.

In spite of these crimes and the suppression of innocent Muslim people in their own homeland, it unfortunately is seen that the region's reactionary rulers, who have themselves played a major role in the preservation and expansion of the existence of the Zionist regime, by adopting deadly silence in the face of these crimes and by searching for compromising and submissive solutions show the green light to the invading criminals; this in itself is an important factor in the increase in these crimes and massacres. It is these anti-Islamic and inhumane regimes that shed crocodile tears for the Palestine and Lebanon tragedies, shamelessly welcome Camp David, and put the seal of approval on the disgraceful treaty between the Zionist regime and the Lebanese Government.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Affairs Ministry expresses its sympathy with the families of the beloved Palestinian and Lebanese martyrs, in particular the families of the martyrs of the Muslim students of the university of the occupied Hebron city, condemns these terrorist and savage actions which can only be carried out by the Zionist criminals, and once again declare that the key to the freedom of Jerusalem is unity among Muslims, forceful struggle, and the expansion of the armed uprising of the Muslim revolutionaries against the invaders of Jerusalem.

[Signed] Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Hajj Official Decries Saudi 'Obstructions'

LD261252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The supervisor of the hajj and pilgrimage organization this morning gave a press, radio, and television interview.He commented on the latest steps taken to send pilgrims on a hajj pilgrimage and the obstructions placed by the Saudi Arabian Government to the hajj pilgrimage by Iranian pilgrims.

He said: These obstructions only effect Iranian pilgrims; one reason is the fear of the Saudi Arabian Government of marches and slogans such as "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" by Iranian Muslims.

The supervisor of the hajj and pilgrimage organization referred to the contradictions in statements made by Saudi Arabian Government officials and their actions in connection with the hajj pilgrimage of Iranian pilgrims: Despite the fact that the Saudi Arabian Government has officially announced that all air, sea,and land routes of that country are open to all pilgrims from throughout the world and despite the fact that that country's embassy in the Islamic Republic announced its readiness to issue visas to Iranian pilgrims, in practice, they are sabotaging all efforts to provide dwellings for our pilgrims.

The supervisor of the hajj and pilgrimage organization added: We have so far managed to reserve 1/5 of our dwelling needs in Mecca and 2/5 in Madina, but the Saudi Government, despite the official negotiations held 4 months ago at the beginning of the month of Rajab with the minister of hajj and Awqaf of that country, and despite his promise to provide us with the facilities needed to reserve dwellings, the work of the delegation we sent there has been sabotaged. Also, the delegation which was to go to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the month of Sha'ban was, because of the obstructions caused by the Saudi Government, only able to travel to that country at the beginning of the month of Ramadan. He added: During this trip, our delegation was faced with many problems created by Saudi officials, including a unilateral agreement [as heard] having 12 articles which they intended to impose on the delegation, but our delegation protested.

The supervisor of the hajj and pilgrimage organization then elaborated on the steps taken until now for this year's hajj, and emphasizing the fact that the number of pilgrims for this year is still 95,000. He said: Yesterday, the Saudi Arabian Embassy in the Islamic Republic announced its readiness to issue visas and, immediately, we put 7,000 passports belonging to the pilgrims at their disposal. He added:—The pilgrims will reside there for 1 month, and the first flight will be at the beginning of the month of Shahrivar [23 August]. The exchange allowance for each pilgrim will be 2,500 Saudi rials, the same as last year. Also, the names of clergymen accompanying each group have been announced. There will be a seminar to train and coordinate the

activities of clergymen. There will also be classes held for training pilgrims.

In conclusion, he stressed that the hajj organization has done everything necessary for the pilgrimage, and if the Saudi Arabian Government does not sabotage its efforts, the issue of dwellings would also be solved within the time left. He asked the pilgrims of the house of God to accept the difficulties and problems resulting from the sabotage activities of the Saudi Government.

Baha'i Arrested for 'Counterrevolutionary Activities'

GF281740 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — Large amounts of hoarded automobile spare parts worth [figure indistinct](about 2.4 million dollars), were seized here recently by the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor of Tehran from a retired colonel, member of the heretical Baha'i network.

After his arrest, Azizollah Dehqani Tafti has said that the act was carried out under the cover of a company named Dorr Sadaf and the idea behind creation of it was to use it as a cover for counterrevolutionary and espionage activities.

Furthermore he has said that the company was not involved in any business and trade and was merely used as a base for releasing anti-Islamic Revolution statements of the political establishment of the Baha'is and carrying out espionage activities.

Dehqani Tafti, who was acting as the head of the sham company said, the Baha'i network considered hoarding and profiteering as the guideline to be followed by its members aimed at damaging Islamic Republic of Iran.

The seized spare parts were accumulated in the past three years and were kept in different places including in the residence of the head of the said sham company. In another part of his confession, Dehqani Tafti said that these parts were to be sold in black market gradually and the money was supposed to be put at the disposal of the heretic Baha'i network.

Text of Joint Communique on Indian Minister's Visit

LD230013 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text of joint communique released simultaneously on 22 July in Tehran and New Delhi on visit by P.V. Narashima Rao, Indian minister of external affairs]

[Text] At the invitation of Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to Iran from 27 to 31 Tir, 1362 — corresponding to 18 to 22 July, 1983.

The Indian minister of external affairs was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, which included [name indistinct], an external Affairs Ministry under secretary, and other officials from that ministry, as well as officials from Indian Ministries of Information and Steel and Mines, Finance, Commerce, Education and Training, Culture, and Industries. [as heard]

The two countries' foreign ministers held several rounds of talks, discussing bilateral relations and international topics of mutual interests.

Mr Narasimha Rao was received by His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president; His Excellency Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, state prosecutor general; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; and Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and met and conferred with Mr Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, minister of commerce; Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries; and Mr Chafuri-Fard, minister of energy.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran extended warm hospitality to Mr Rao and his entourage, and this is an indication of the close and friendly relations between Iran and India.

The Indian minister held several rounds of talks with the minister of foreign affairs. These talks were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and good understanding.

The two countries' foreign ministers referred to the deep historical and cultural relations between the two nations of Iran and India and reiterated that two nations' anticolonialist and anti-imperialist struggles to achieve independence have further deepened these relations.

The Indian minister of external affairs' visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran played an important role in furthering the two countries' friendly relations.

In view of the two countries' historical and cultural common interests, as well as the two countries' firm pursuance of non-aligned principles, the two sides' understanding during their discussions was high. Both sides expressed their sincere desire to promote and expand their close and friendly ties through more exchanges of visits at various levels. Both ministers held the view that their identical stands, impressions, and views in political fields are a firm base toward the creation of a legal framework aimed at strengthening economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries and that this has given their cooperation a practical orientation.

(?In view) of the aforementioned fact, on 28 Tir [19 July] the two sides signed an agreement for the establishment of a joint Iran-India commission. With regard to the joint commission's talks, the two sides signed a letter of understanding which will lead to further promotion of their bilateral economic relations in the fields of industry as follows: ceramics, cement, fiber glass, textiles, medicines, transport, energy production and transfer, molding, metal melting, [word indistinct] bicycle, construction of industrial towns, and the introduciton of travel facilities.

On trade cooperation, the two sides agreed to examine ways of reducing their trade imbalance by observing and implementing their letter of understanding dated Mordad, 1361 [July - August

1982] and the discussions that will take place during the Iranian Minister of commerce's forthcoming visit to India in Sharivar 1362 [period from 23 August to 6 September 1983]. A time table for the implementation of the cultural exchange program during 1983-84 was also prepared.

On cooperation in the field of education and training a policy was set for the exchange of films and radio programs, cooperation between the two countries' national mass media, the introduction of facilities for issuing visas, and the mutual introduction of press cards for reports.

The two sides expressed their deep beliefs with regard to the Nonaligned Movement's continuing usefulness and important role in the establishment of international peace and security and necessity of promoting this movement. They reiterated that the Nonalined Movement, which is derived from newly-independent nations' aspirations for freedom from yoke of military alliances, superpower rivalry, and East-West confrontation, has an imporant role in protecting nonaligned members from outside interference and enables the movement's member states to devote their efforts to promoting social and economic life.

Both foreign ministers expressed their deep concern at the tense situation in Afghanistan and reiterated their full support for its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and for Afghanistan's nonaligned stance. Condemning the presence of foreign occupying troops, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the said forces from Afghan territory as well as the safe and honorable return of all Afghan nationals to their homeland and the right of the Afghan people to determine their own future. He then explained that the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects any negotiations and talks and solutions made without the participation of the true representatives of the Afghan nation.

The Indian minister of external affairs emphasized Paragraph 114 of the political declaration issued by the Seventh Conference of the Nonaligned Summit. He also reiterated Paragraph 115 of the aforementioned declaration, according to which the Nonaligned Movement expresses its support for constructive measures taken by the UN Secretary general toward a political solution to Afghanistan's problem.

Reviewing the situation in the West Asia region, the two countries' foreign ministers expressed their deep concern and aversion with regard to the continuation of Israel's aggression against the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and Arab nations and condemned the illegal annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights by Israel, which are contrary to international law and which seriously threaten peace.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated the need for the liberation of all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories from the Zionist regime's occupation as well as the sovereignty of the Palestinians over occupied Palestine; he then condemned the agreement between Lebanon and Israel. He again expressed his government's full support for the legitimate struggles by the Palestinians and the restoration of the oppressed Palestinian nation's rights.

The Indian minister of external affairs reiterated India's support for and adherence to the stance adopted by the Nonaligned Movement, as stated in Clauses 10, 11, and 12 of the declaration of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit. In particular he emphasized India's consistent support for the right of the Palestinian people to create an independent state in their homeland, namely Palestine.

Condemning the fascist and oppressive measures by the racist South African regime, both sides called for the independence of Namibia and expressed their support for the liberation and independence-seeking struggles by SWAPO, the South-West African People's Organization.

The Indian minister of external affairs expressed his satisfaction and heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality by the Iranian Government and people which were accorded to him and his entourage; in particular he expressed this to the Iranian Foreign Minister. He then invited the Iranian foreign minister to visit India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure; the date is to be mutually arranged.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri Holds Meetings in Qom

21 July Meeting

LD221511 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam Yasrebi, the imam's representative and Friday imam of Kashan; the supervisor of Islamic propaganda of airports; and officials in charge of various units of the country's airports, yesterday met and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri on Qom.

During this meeting, referring to the effect of the Islamic Revolution on the conscience of the world public, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said: The gentlemen are noticing that today the enemies of Islam and the superpowers, by using all their power, intend to destroy and weaken this great revolution; and this in itself is a reason for the importance and greatness of our Islamic Revolution.

The Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also graciously emphasized: We should try to safeguard the freedom that we have gained; and our nation feels proud to be independent with honor and feels proud when it sees that it can determine its own fate instead of it being determined by the White House and the Kremlin. Our nation feels proud to be free from domination by any power, and of course it is prepared to endure all difficulties and shortages in order to safeguard its honor and independence.

His eminence added: The responsible authorities of the country and the revolution also note that they should know the value of this revolution and the learned and steadfast nation; and they should not miss the opportunity to serve Islam and the deprived masses. So the honorable responsible officials should try to perform their duties with sincerity and good intentions in order to please Almighty God and bring comfort to the people. They

should not be fatigued by some instances of nagging, and they should avoid wasting time and energy.

In conclusion Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Please give my regards to all the brothers in the Air Force who are serving in this sensitive post. Tell them that their service to their country in the present circumstances is classed as the best kind of worship and that they should be certain that God will reward them.

The Central News Unit reports that the supervisor of the documentation center of the Islamic Revolution and the head of Branch No 4 of the administrative court of justice also met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday and discussed issues related to their area of responsibility.

Talk With Shiraz Prosecutor

LD251311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Islamic Revolution prosecutor of Shiraz, that city's religious judge and Friday imams of Gonbad and Firuzabad, separately met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday.

His excellency, at the meeting with the Islamic Revolution prosecutor and the religious judge of Shiraz, referred to the heavy responsibilities of religious judges and prosecutors: Those brothers who are serving in courts and justice department offices are providing an admirable service, may God grant them success in their work and reward them. He also added: The important point is that you gentlemen should be careful in refraining from drastic acts which might seem necessary under certain circumstances, Since seeking vengence from offenders is not the objective of their trials. The main objectivesare to stop oppression and to prevent conspiracies and disturbances in the society. Therefore, this end should be kept in mind. Also, those who have deceived and corrupted should be given an opportunity to think again. It is very likely that such people would go through a change of ideology and in the future they might be able to serve their country. His excellency stressed: One should not be fooled in the cases involving corrupt and dangerous persons who have not yet come to their senses and they should not be released since that would be gainst Islam and the proper course of action. They should be given a chance to think again about their past and their future and the path they have chosen and its bitter end. They should be given the opportunity to talk to informed and religious persons.

Conference With Friday Imams

LD261322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that the Friday imams ferred yesterday with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. At this meeting, his excellency praised them and emphasized the role played by the Friday imams in mobilizing the people and their presence in the political scene.

He said: If we do not pay the necessary attention to the important responsibility delegated to the Friday imams and fail to cooperate fully with the people when necessary, it would be very unfair since it is the continuous presence of the people in the [word indistinct] scene and their sensitivity and awareness of issues connected with the revolution that keeps the revolution flourishing and on its right path.